

### REMARKS

Claims 1-39 are pending in this application and are subject to a restriction requirement. In particular, the Examiner has indicated that the application contains claims directed to the following three distinct inventions:

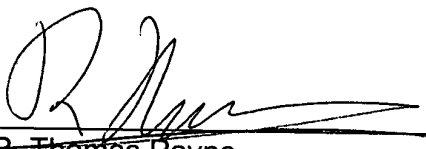
- I. Claims 1-20, 22-27, drawn to a membrane or membrane matrix, classified in class 521, subclass 50<sup>+</sup>.
- II. Claims 21, 28-36, drawn to a method of making a membrane or matrix, classified in class 524, subclass 86<sup>+</sup>.
- III. Claims 37-39, drawn to a method of using the membrane of claim 1, classified in class 435, subclass 6.

In response to the pending Restriction Requirement, Applicants hereby elect the invention of Group I defined by Claims 1-20, 22-27 for prosecution on the merits. Applicants reserve the right to elect and prosecute the non-elected claims in one or more co-pending applications to be filed at a later date.

Based upon the foregoing, early and favorable consideration of Claims 1-20, 22-27 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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